



**TO:** Pharmacy Providers  
**FROM:** Rhode Island Department of Human Services  
**DATE:** May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2006  
**SUBJECT:** State of Rhode Island Medicaid Program and Reinstatement of Medicare Part D Editing

---

The Medicare Modernization Act became effective January 1, 2006; and one of its requirements is mandatory enrollment into Prescription Drug Plans (PDPs) for those Medicaid beneficiaries who are also eligible for Medicare (the "dual eligibles"). These beneficiaries previously received their pharmaceutical benefits through the Rhode Island Medical Assistance Program. As you are aware these dual eligibles encountered various unexpected issues when attempting to fill prescriptions and as of January 12, 2006 through current, the State of Rhode Island temporarily reinstated pharmaceutical coverage to allow those dual eligible beneficiaries who are unable to receive their medications through their auto assigned or chosen PDP from the Rhode Island Medical Assistance Program.

**Effective May 16, 2006, the State of Rhode Island will be reinstating their Medicare Part D editing.** Providers will no longer be able to secondary bill Rhode Island Medical Assistance for Part D covered Drugs. Part D covered drug claims **MUST** be submitted to the beneficiaries' PDP for payment.

As when first enacted on January 1, 2006, the Rhode Island Department of Human Services Medicaid Program **will continue coverage** of medications in the following classes of Optional Drugs;

- Benzodiazepines
- Barbiturates
- Cough & Cold medications
- Prescription vitamins & mineral products, except prenatal vitamins and fluoride preparations
- Over-the-Counter Medications
- Agents for Weight Loss \*

Please note that coverage in these drug classes is **limited to those medications currently covered** by the Rhode Island Department of Human Services Medical Assistance Program.

\* these medications will continue to be covered through the Pharmacy Prior Authorization (PA) Program; PA forms are available at [www.dhs.state.ri.us/dhs/heacre/provsrvcs/pa\\_forms/PA04.pdf](http://www.dhs.state.ri.us/dhs/heacre/provsrvcs/pa_forms/PA04.pdf).

Beneficiaries continuing to experience difficulty with Medicare Part D program should contact Medicare directly at 1-800-MEDICARE or The Point at 462-4444 for assistance. The State is obligated to defer questions about "Part D" to the appropriate federal agencies or participating PDPs since it is not in a position to resolve these problems. Specific benefit design questions such as: copays, deductibles, preferred drug lists or the appeals process for non-covered medications should be directed to the beneficiary's PDP. Specific complaints should be directed to [bostonpartdinquiries@cms.hhs.gov](mailto:bostonpartdinquiries@cms.hhs.gov). The Department of Human Services and The Point will assist beneficiaries in filing complaints to CMS. Providers can also assist beneficiaries in filing complaints by sending the attached Complaint Intake Form to the email address noted above.

#### Phone Numbers at the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS)

General questions about Medicare Part D can be directed to 1-800-MEDICARE.  
Dedicated pharmacy eligibility line to identify beneficiary enrollment 1-866-835-7595.

*Again, the State of Rhode Island thanks you, pharmacists, for your efforts in assisting our beneficiaries obtaining necessary medications.*